

# Dranesville Dispatch

November 2005

Volume V

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## Special Points Of Interest This Issue:

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## Salona Conservation Easement Negotiated

An informational meeting was held on **October 13, 2005** to discuss the acquisition of a conservation easement on the Salona property by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Park Authority. The meeting explained the proposal, followed by a question & answer session. The site, located at 1235 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean is a parcel of land with frontage on Dolley Madison Blvd., Buchanan Street and Kurtz Road. The Salona homestead and grounds comprise 7.8 acres within the 52.4 acre site, and is already protected in perpetuity by a 1971 easement to the Board of Supervisors. This proposal would place an additional 41 acres under a new conservation easement. Within the new easement, 10 acres would be placed in active recreational use, with the remainder used for passive recreation, such as trails. The easement



would also allow for preservation and interpretation of natural and cultural resources on the property. The remaining three acres remaining of the 52.4 acre site would be retained by the property owners.

Salona derives its name from the circa 1805 homestead associated with this site. Salona has significant cultural history of local, state and national importance that spans centuries. The Salona mansion was built c.1800 on part of the 1719 Thomas Lee grant of 2862 acres that became known as Langley. "Lighthorse Harry Lee received a life interest in Salona through the death of his wife Matilda, who left the Langley tract to their son Henry. President James Madison and his wife Dolley received hospitality at Salona, August 1814, during the British invasion of Washington. Camp Griffin occupied Salona (then owned by Jacob Smoot) and surrounding properties from October 1861-March 1862, with the mansion house serving as headquarters for General William Smith and other Union commanders. The Salona property was a working farm until 1947 when the Smoot family partitioned the land and began selling acreage for the development of the Salona Shopping Center, Salona Village, Trinity Methodist Church and the McLean Baptist Church. Later Clive and Susan DuVal purchased a little over 52 acres that included the house, and in 1971, they placed a permanent easement on 7.8 acres comprising the house and surrounding land. A fact sheet is available at <http://www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/Dranesville/> under current topics of interest, and on the Park Authority website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/salonaplanning.htm>



**McLean's 11-12 year old All-Star Softball team defeated the team from Orange Connecticut to become the Little League World Series Champions! Supervisor DuBois hosted a "Hometown Parade" in their honor.**

## **Supervisor DuBois Holds Office Hours in Great Falls**

Beginning October 19, 2005, Supervisor Joan DuBois began holding office hours the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the Great Falls Community Library from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Appointments are recommended but are not required. To make an appointment with Supervisor DuBois, please contact her McLean office at 703-356-0551. "I am trying to make it more convenient for citizens in the Great Falls community to meet with me and this will be an opportunity for them to voice their questions, concerns and comments".

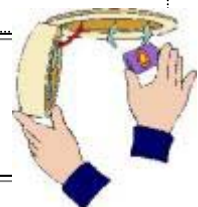
**Supervisor Joan DuBois held a Dranesville District-wide information meeting and work session** with county planning staff on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that addressed current yard setback requirements, building heights, minimum lot widths, fence heights and deck screening. Based on citizen comment and feedback, a number of these amendments could go forward to a formal public hearing before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in the spring of 2006.

Four Zoning Ordinance Amendments were previously proposed by county planning staff in 2004, after a decision by the Virginia Supreme Court that a property owner has no right to a variance request, unless the Zoning Ordinance, in the absence of a variance, would "interfere with all reasonable beneficial uses of the property." Variances are granted by the board of Zoning appeals, whose members are appointed by the Circuit Court.

"Planning Commissioner Nancy Hopkins and I look forward to hearing how the community views these potential modifications. Since the Cochran decision came out of a case in the Dranesville District, I know how seriously the citizens of Dranesville take land use issues. At the same time, I am also aware that many of our older homes no longer conform to certain current codes. When these property owners attempt to make simple modifications or upgrades to their properties, they run afoul of the ordinance".

The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning web site contains the details of these amendments. For more information go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eservices>, or contact Donna Pesto or Lorrie Krist @ 703-324-1314. The listserv is entitled "Yard, Fence/Walls, Lot Width and Height". To obtain a summary table of the issues being considered for modification contact my office.

**DON'T FORGET to change the batteries in your smoke detector!**  
**It is also a good time to check and replace the supplies in your home emergency kit.**



## SENIOR UPDATES

### Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled

The Board of Supervisors has approved an amendment to the Tax Relief program. The net assets will increase from \$240,000 to the state maximum of \$340,000 for tax relief benefits if a person can also meet the age / disability and income requirements. This will be retroactive. The income limit would also be increased from \$52,000 to the fixed state maximum of \$72,000. Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older or who have permanent and total disabilities. Those who owned and occupied their residences as of Dec. 31st of the preceding year may qualify for real estate tax relief. If, for example, someone received 50% on their 1st installment bill in July, they would automatically qualify for 100% relief.

If someone applied earlier this year and was denied due to income or asset, but they would qualify under the new rules, the county will automatically re-audit their application and approve them if applicable and will receive an adjustment on the 2nd installment bill. For 1st time applicants, or for anyone applying as a hardship case, DTA will continue to accept applications for 2005 tax relief through December 31, 2006. Applications can be obtained by calling 703-222-8234, TTY 703-22207594, or online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf\\_files/2005TaxRelief.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf_files/2005TaxRelief.pdf).

Income Range	Graduated Percentage	Maximum Allowable Net Assets
\$ 40,000 and below	100%	\$240,000
\$ 40,001 - \$46,000	50%	\$240,000
\$ 46,001 - \$52,000	25%	\$240,000

Income Range	Graduated Percentages	Maximum Allowable Net Assets
\$ 52,000 and below	100%	\$340,000
\$ 52,001 - \$62,000	50%	\$340,000
\$ 62,001 - \$72,000	25%	\$340,000



**Supervisor DuBois helps  
Ida Clark  
celebrate her 100th Birthday at  
the Lewinsville Senior Center**

### Senior Navigator -- Your "Day or Night" Connection to Health, Disability and Aging Resources...

Whether you're caring for a family member who is elderly or has a disability, helping a loved one who lives across the state or searching for resources for yourself, check out SeniorNavigator.org. The county is partnering with this Web-based statewide information service that provides up-to-date health and aging information and resources for seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers in Virginia. Access SeniorNavigator directly at <http://www.seniornavigator.org> or through the county's Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/seniors>. Features include online access to nearly 19,000 public and private services in Virginia; timely articles on health and aging; and an "Ask the Expert" feature that provides confidential answers to your questions. The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, of the county's Department of Family Services, provides ongoing coordination with SeniorNavigator. An added benefit: SeniorNavigator centers ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/seniors/sncenters.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/seniors/sncenters.htm)) have been set up at libraries, community centers and senior centers across the county. There, trained staff will help residents without computer access use the SeniorNavigator site. Questions? Call Senior Navigator toll-free at 1-866-393-0957, TTY 711.



## Fairfax County Update

### Fall Driving Safety

Fairfax Co. Police advise citizens to be extra vigilant for deer while driving during the coming weeks. If you see a deer crossing sign, be especially attentive at that location, especially at dusk and dawn during deer breeding season from mid-Oct. to Jan. When you spot a deer near the roadway slow down and be ready for the animal to dart into the road. Deer often travel in groups so watch for others. Flash your headlights from bright to dim and honk the horn to encourage them to move. Warn drivers following you of their presence by tapping on your brakes. If a deer runs into the roadway, try to slow down or brake without swerving. If you cannot avoid hitting a deer, slow down and grasp the steering wheel firmly with both hands. Take your foot off the brake at the time of impact so the front end of your vehicle will lift up and enable the deer to go under the car, rather than over it, reducing the chance of it coming through the windshield. If the animal is injured or killed, report the collision through the non-emergency line at the Police Department, 703-691-2131. In 2004 there were 136 reportable crashes between vehicles and deer however, the actual number of collisions is likely between 3,000 and 5,000.



### **Fairfax Named Top Digital County**

Fairfax County was named the No. 1 digital county in the nation for jurisdictions with a population of more than 500,000 in a survey by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties. All U.S. counties were asked in April to participate in the 2005 Digital Counties Survey, measuring the extent to which the locality utilizes the Internet, cable television and other technology to create a 24-hour interactive government. According to the Washington Business Journal, Fairfax County, one of the nation's largest counties, ranked No.1 on the list for innovative use of information technology to serve its citizens. CDG says Fairfax County has worked diligently over the years to provide citizens with greater access to their government.

### **County Wins 12 NACo Awards**

Fairfax County recently won 12 awards from the National Association of Counties, garnering 11 Achievement Awards and one Acts of Caring Award. Congratulations to the following Fairfax County agencies and authorities for their creative, award-winning programs: Department of Family Services, Department of Finance, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Management and Budget, Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Department of Systems Management for Human Services, Department of Vehicle Services, Economic Development Authority, Fire and Rescue Department, Health Department, Office of the County Executive, Office of Emergency Management, Office of Equity Programs, Office of Partnerships, Park Authority, Providence District Supervisor's office, and the Public Schools.

### **County Street Index Available**

The "Fairfax County, VA Supplemental Street Index-2005 edition" is a listing of all streets located within Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax. Each street name in the index includes one or many associated address ranges. Each address range includes the corresponding "Fairfax County, VA Street Atlas" map number and tax map grid number. This index is available for free in PDF format on the [GIS Web site](#) and GIS Infoweb page. A printed version is also available for \$7 through the Fairfax County Map, Publications and Gift Shop, as is the "Fairfax County, VA Street Atlas-2005 edition" for \$11.50. If you have any questions, contact [Cindy Crisler](#) at 703-324-4366, TTY 711.

### **Planning Home Improvement Projects???**

Home improvements last all year, so be sure you're aware of the latest county regulations and information you need to proceed with your project. If you're looking to add a pool, deck, fireplace, or finish a basement, read the following resources at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/home\\_improve.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/home_improve.htm)



## Did You Know...?

- **Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Needs Your Help!** The Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FA-DSB) conducts a survey every three years to develop ways to assist residents with physical and/or sensory disabilities. This survey will be used by the FA-DSB to develop a Needs Assessment Report. The report will determine what areas need funding and resources to improve the independence of people who have physical and sensory disabilities in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The Board needs your opinions! Take the survey online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsb/survey](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsb/survey).
- **Animal Adoption** - It's fall and there are lots of pets waiting for adoption at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The selection is especially good for cats, rabbits and guinea pigs as well as some wonderful purebred and mixed breed dogs. Stop by and round out your family with a great pet that needs a good home. Adoption times are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can always find important animal care tips and policies on the shelter web site @ [www.fairfaxpets.org](http://www.fairfaxpets.org).
- **Taxicab Rates Increase** - In response to high gas prices and the region's cost of living, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a temporary \$1 surcharge for taxicabs operating in the county. The new rate is effective Oct. 18th—Nov. 21st. Since that time, gasoline prices have risen from an average of \$2.20 per gallon to approx. \$3 per gallon, causing hardship in the taxi industry. On Nov. 21st the Board will consider whether to extend the emergency surcharge & increase the rate to \$1.50 per ride.
- **Planning Commission Quarterly Newsletter** - Planning Communicator, a new quarterly publication of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, highlights the activities performed by the Commission and its Committees. This issue features a Commissioner Spotlight on Chairman Peter F. Murphy Jr., an Area Plans Review update, web site activity, a comparison of Fairfax County with two other U.S. counties and a historical look at the former District of Columbia Correctional Facility at Lorton. The publication can be viewed in Adobe Acrobat format on the [Planning Commission Web page](#) under the Publications header. Please contact [Henri Stein McCartney](#) at 703-324-2871, TTY 703-324-7951, for additional information or to send story ideas. To request this publication in an alternate format, please call the Planning Commission Office at 703-324-2865, TTY 703-324-7951. Please allow seven days for the preparation of material.
- **Chairman's Newsletter:** In addition to Supervisor DuBois electronic newsletter, Chairman Gerry Connolly also offers an electronic newsletter. If you wish to subscribe to his newsletter, go to [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/chair/chairmans\\_report.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/chair/chairmans_report.htm)
- **Tyson's Corner:** Many citizens do not realize that **Tyson's Corner** comprises an area of 1,700 acres, three times the size of the Rosslyn to Ballston corridor. There is a strong desire to create a vital mixed-use urban environment now that rail in the corridor is moving forward. COG forecasts predict a gain of 42,000 jobs and 7,100 households by the year 2030 for Tysons. Other groups forecast fewer jobs, but an increase of almost 11,000 housing units. To keep up with the ongoing visioning process, the work of the citizen Coordinating Committee for **Tyson's Corner** and to be part of the community dialogue later this fall, go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner>
- **Chain Bridge Road:** A project to extend the left turn from southbound Chain Bridge Road onto eastbound Great Falls Street was recently completed. This project was included in the Board of Supervisors' Four-Year Transportation Program.

## Land Use Update

- The Board of Supervisors has approved the rezoning of the 69-acre **Moutoux Orchard**, now called **Maymont**, off Beulah Road in the Vienna area to a PDH-1 district. 63 homes will be built on the site, with 17 acres dedicated for parkland along with significant road improvements at Beulah and Route 7.
- **Winchester Homes** has purchased additional land at Spring Hill and Lewinsville Roads for its proposed **McLean Glen** project in McLean, consolidating a parcel of approximately 8 acres. The amended application will be resubmitted shortly, and the Planning Commission expects to receive the proposal in January. The parcel is planned for single family homes at a density of 2-3 homes per acre and the application requests 21 homes at a density of 2.56 homes per acre. Gordon Lane will be relocated further to the east when the property is consolidated.
- Residents of the **Palladium** in downtown McLean will start to move in next month. Watch for the unveiling of a beautiful time-sequenced lighted fountain along Laughlin Avenue and the start of regularly scheduled community cultural events that will be scheduled in the brick open air courtyard.
- **Winchester Homes** has completed road improvements to Great Falls Street and is about to break ground at **Stockwell Manor** in the Falls Church area. There will be 30 single family homes and 72 townhomes in the development which will introduce Winchester's upscale Camberly line of homes.
- **Brookfield Homes** has broken ground on an eight acre parcel off Virginia Avenue in the Franklin Park area of McLean. There will be 16 single family homes built on half acre lots in this subdivision.
- The **Great Falls Village Green Day School** has received approval from the Board to increase the student and teacher population at its current facility on Walker Road in Great Falls. The school proposes to go from 125 to 150 students and from 30-35 staff on site at any one time. No changes to the building footprint were proposed.
- **Nextel** has received approval from the Planning Commission to place a Distributive Antenna System consisting of 29 nodes along a variety of roads, mostly in Great Falls and western portions of McLean which will provide road coverage; mounted on regular telephone poles with the hub in a building in Great Falls.
- **Chesterbrook Residences, Inc.** expects to break ground in November on a 99-unit affordable assisted living residence along Westmoreland Street adjacent to Longfellow Intermediate School. With land donated by the National Capital Presbytery, the project has received state and county housing funds, along with private financing. Several local congregations, including Lewinsville and Emmanuel Presbyterian Churches and Temple Rodef Shalom, are participating in this project.
- The **Spring Hill Farm** subdivision was approved over the summer. Eighteen homes will be built by Yeonas and Ellis on one acre lots off Spring Hill Road in McLean. The site has a historic dairy barn that is being retained and an 1822 federal period home.
- The **Hunter Mill Road Special Study** Task Force has been meeting through the summer and fall to review the Comprehensive Plan for an area bounded by Crowell Road, the Dulles Toll Road, Hunter Mill Road and Sunset Hills Road in Vienna. A community workshop was held on October 1, 2005 at Madison High School to hear alternative ideas and suggestions from residents about the future land use, transportation and public facility needs for this area. To learn more about this Special Study go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/huntermill>
- On October 27, the Planning Commission deferred any decision on a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to clarify the **definition of "public use"** of county parkland. In response to thoughtful citizen comment, staff plans to re-examine the language of the proposed amendment. A link to the earlier staff report can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/proposed> and scroll to the link.

**2005 Inaugural Buddy Walk on the  
Ellipse at the Government Center  
Sponsored by the National Downs  
Syndrome Society**



*Do you know someone that  
would like to receive the  
Dranesville Dispatch elec-  
tronic newsletter? Send their  
email address to Dranes-  
ville@fairfaxcounty.gov*

**Volunteers Needed to Assist with  
Adaptive Aquatics Program**

The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services is looking for adults and high school students in Northern Virginia to volunteer to help teach swim classes for individuals with developmental disabilities, ages 5-21. If you can spare two hours on a Saturday morning, we can use your support. The group, led by a professional instructor, will participate in an instructional class on swim skills and water safety in and around the pool. Volunteers will be paired up with a participant in the program to assist him/her during the class. High school students can earn hours towards their community service requirements for school. Volunteers must complete training prior to becoming an instructor for the program. There are two sessions. The sessions are from Dec. 10 through Jan. 21; and from Feb. 11 through March 11. All sessions are held on Saturdays, and individuals may volunteer for one or all two sessions. Programs are held at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters. The cost of a life-guard certification class will be covered by the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund for individuals who volunteer for all five Saturdays in a session. For more information or reasonable ADA accommodations, call [Sandi Dallhoff](mailto:Sandi.Dallhoff@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-5716, TTY 703-222-9693, or visit online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec) and go to Volunteer Opportunities, Joey Pizzano Swim Program.

**Fairfax County Announces start of Home Heating Fuel &  
Crisis Assistance Program for 2005-06**

**Fairfax County announces start of home heating fuel and crisis assistance programs for 2005 - 2006** - Low-income Fairfax County residents who need help to pay home heating bills or who face an emergency heating situation this winter may be able to access assistance from two federally funded programs locally administered by the county's Department of Family Services.

The **Fuel Assistance** program helps eligible low-income households with the costs of heating their homes. This year, the fuel assistance application period begins on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005, and closes on Monday, Nov. 14, 2005. The **Crisis Assistance** program helps households in heating emergency situations with primary heat security deposits, utility heating bills, repair/replacement of heating equipment, or primary heating fuel. The Crisis Assistance application period begins Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005 and closes on Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

To apply for these programs (starting October 11, 2005), call the Department of Family Services' energy assistance phone line at 703-324-7604 (TTY: 703-222-9452) and ask for an application to be mailed to you, or pick up an application at any of the department's four offices: Fairfax, Falls Church, Reston, Alexandria. Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. To request this information in an alternative format, call 703-324-7500; TTY 703-222-9452.



## Fairfax Animal Shelter Teams with Local Groups to Find Pets a "Home 4 the Holidays"



The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is working with DC Metro No More Homeless Pets in a "Home 4 the Holidays" campaign. This effort encourages people seeking to add a pet to their family to help a pet in need of a home by choosing a shelter or rescue animal. In December, the shelter has added special holiday hours. In addition to being open its normal hours Tuesdays through Saturdays, the shelter will open on Sundays on Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. If you or someone you know is planning to add a pet to their family this holiday season, encourage them to drop by the shelter at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030 or call 703) 830-1100. More information about animals available for adoption is online at <http://www.fairfaxpets.org>.

## Public Meeting Announce Athletic Field Lighting Study



Fairfax County Park Authority is holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, **November 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Woodson High School, located at 9525 Main Street in Fairfax, VA.** This meeting is to present the consultant's Athletic Field Lighting Technical Report and to gain public input. The report and public input will be used to develop county-wide athletic field lighting specifications and guidelines. These specifications will allow the Park Authority to better address the concerns of park neighbors, create more economically viable lighting systems, and utilize the latest technology to reduce the glare and spill of lighting systems. The Park Authority is not endorsing or presenting any specifications at this time, however, this meeting will offer an opportunity to review and respond to the study commissioned by the Park Authority. This report is available in my office for review or on line at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fieldlighting.htm>

## Fairfax County Develops a Watershed Plan Join in the effort...

Fairfax County is developing watershed plans, including regulatory requirements. Since over 70% of the county's streams are in need attention, these plans are a means to restore and protect our streams and to do our share to protect the environment. As Fairfax County has developed, the addition of roads, parking lots, roof tops and driveways have resulted in increased rainwater, known as stormwater runoff, flowing directly to our local streams. This stormwater runoff leads to potential flooding, stream-bank erosion and poor water quality by carrying trash and pollutants to our local streams as well as to our drinking water supply and the Chesapeake Bay.

Citizens can participate in Watershed Plans by either attending public meetings, or by commenting via internet at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/watersheds> then click on "Get involved in Your Watershed." Help prioritize future expenditures for environmental protection, and to protect and improve the quality of our community and environment.